



**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

**True to God's Word** The [First Reading](#) poses a puzzle that has bedeviled philosophers and theologians.

God commands Jonah to tell the people of Ninevah these words: *Forty days more and Ninevah shall be destroyed.*

Now, the people of Ninevah believed that God's words are true, and they repented. And God was pleased with them for believing his words and repenting.

BUT—God's words seem to be false. At any rate, forty days after Jonah's telling the people God's words, the city is still standing.

And so here is the puzzle: could God say words that are false, and could God be pleased with the people of Ninevah for believing a falsehood?

Philosophers and theologians have had a lot to say about this puzzle. But here is a simple thought.

God's words are always true, and God is always true to his word. When God's words call you, God puts your life at a cross-road. You can ignore him and continue stubbornly with your old life, as if God didn't really matter, or didn't really care what you did, or maybe didn't really exist at all. Or you can open yourself to God. You can respond to him with a willingness to trust and obey. But if you do this, you will be leaving your old life behind for a new life that might well have been unimaginable to you beforehand. You won't be who you were before. You will be a new person, in God and for him.

The people of Ninevah respond to God's call in this second way. They believe God's words and will to be obedient to God, and that is why they repent their former ways. As a result they become very different from the people they had been. The whole city becomes a very different city from the one it had been.

There are, then, *two* ways in which the Lord's words to Ninevah can be true. Ninevah can be destroyed either because God demolishes the city or because the people cease to be the Ninevah that they were. Either way, the old Ninevah will no longer exist.

Therefore, God's words to Ninevah *were* true. When the people of Ninevah responded to God's words with trust and obedience, they ceased to be what they were—and the old Ninevah was destroyed.

God's words are always true, and God is always true to his word.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 3 **Third Sunday of the Year, January 21, 2018**  
**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Jan	21	8:00 am	SFD	Sarah Laaker
			10:00 am	SP	Evelyn Ross
Tue	Jan	23	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee & Vienna
Wed	Jan	24	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Jan	25	11:30am, 1 pm	Masses	at Marion Penttentiary
Fri	Jan	26	12:00pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Jan	28	8:00 am	SFD	Oscar Laaker
			10:00 am	SP	Dwayne Bowman

<b>Birthdays:</b>	
Jan 22	Macie Zmuda Joe Nelson
Jan 23	Ann Stachowiak Julie Kolb
Jan 25	Chuck Stone
Jan 27	Shay Deaton

**St Paul, Vienna**

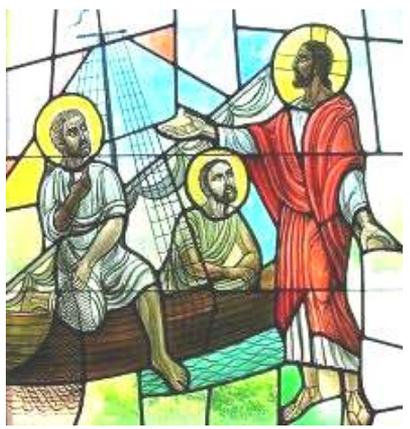
<p><b>Sun, Jan 21, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> L Slife, R Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Madonna Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers</b> P Kalicki, J Slife          Mt Slife, S Widowski  <b>E. Minister</b> M Nelson          B. Palmer, P Widowski  <b>Greeter:</b> Mike McMahan</p>	<p><b>Sun, Jan 28, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> R, Slife, B Bertram  <b>Lector:</b> Sabra Moore  <b>Gifts:</b> Chuck, Lynn Stone  <b>Ushers:</b>J Bergmann, S Hupe          D Zmuda, M Palmer  <b>E. Minister</b> B Bishop          D. Bishop, S. Black  <b>Greeter:</b> Vickie Anderson</p>	<p><b>Sun, Feb 4, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b>B Bertran, A Webb  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Widowski  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers,</b>D Bishop, L Hinton          P Widowski, M McMahan  <b>E. Minister</b> A Dueker          L Stoerger, V Anderson  <b>Greeters</b> Geri Tesina</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Jan 21: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Mary Treat  <b>Lector:</b> Marietta Moore  <b>Gifts:</b> L Herbert, R Drone  <b>Usher</b> David Parks  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>	<p><b>Sun, Jan 14: 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Lector:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Gifts:</b> M Moore, L Herbert  <b>Usher:</b> Stan Treat  <b>E. Min:</b> Mary Treat</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Jan 21 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy.....10 am
- PSR Classes.....11am
- Altar Sodality/CCW Meeting in hall.....11am
- Mon Jan 22 Day of Prayer/Penance for Dignity of Life
- Rescheduled SF Parish Council Mt.....4 pm
- Tues Jan 23 DOC Masses Shawnee and Vienna.....9 , 11 am
- Bible Study-Luke with SFD at Dueker Home..5 pm
- RCIA Session.....7 pm
- Wed Jan 24 Patronal Feast Day – St Francis DeSales
- Bible Study-Luke at St Paul.....3 pm
- Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Thr Jan 25 Patronal Feast Day – Conversion of St Paul
- USP Marion masses.....11:30 am, 1 pm
- February Calendar info deadline
- Fri Jan 26 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
- Sun Jan 28 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass .....10 am
- PSR Classes.....11am
- Victory Through Grace Ministry Presentation w brunch..11am



**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN/ALTAR SODALITY** will meet this Sunday following the 10 am mass in the parish hall. All ladies are encouraged to take part. A collection for their work will be taken up following the mass today.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2017** are available for pick-up.

**SP PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES** from Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Mt are available on bulletin rack.

**DAY OF PRAYER/PENANCE** Every year, Jan 22 is declared a Day of Prayer/Penance to address practices against dignity of all human life. Please join this year's commemoration.

**BIBLE STUDY-LUKE** will resume this week. It will be offered Tuesday, 5 pm at the Dueker home, and Wednesday, 3 pm at St Paul Parish Hall. For info, contact Arlene Dueker 618-559-7803.

**FEBRUARY CALENDAR** info must be in office by Thursday of this week.

**JANUARY 28 PRESENTATION** In January, with the anniversary of the Wade vs Roe abortion decision in the U.S., the Church encourages us to reflect upon the sanctity and respect for human life. Recently, in our secular culture, there has been much said about respect for women's sexuality. Keeping this in mind, you are cordially invited to hear about a nearby program that is striving to restore the reality of human sanctity to abused women. **Victory through Grace Ministries** of Paducah, KY empowers women of our region who are survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. Kellie Russell will present information and some needs of the ministry following our Mass on January 28. You are invited to gather in the parish hall for a light brunch and 30 minute presentation. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan for brunch.

**PARISH PATRONAL FEAST INSERT** St Francis DeSales and St Paul parishes both have patronal saint feast days this week. An insert encourages us to reflect on their gifts.

**THE MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION/RENEWAL WEEKEND** is coming **February 3-4**, with your subscription. The Messenger brings you the stories of real people quietly living their faith through compassion and good works. Inspirational stories that show our Catholic faith is alive and well in southern Illinois.

**LADIES RETREAT** Ladies, get away for the weekend for a Ladies Retreat at Kings' House in Belleville IL on April 13-15<sup>th</sup>. Reservation deadline is Feb 1. For more information, call Vickie 658-1576

**THE WORD** The first words of Jesus in the gospel of Saint Mark are: "Time of fulfillment...kingdom of God...at hand...repent...believe in the gospel." We will hear them again with the giving of ashes at the first start of Lent. We need to be reminded, don't we? · What is this gospel, this Good News I choose to believe today? · How can I live both in this world and in the kingdom of God that is already begun? · How will my belief spill into action, into mercy work?

**THANK YOU**.....to helpers who cleared snow from sidewalks (and roads).

# Third Sunday of the Year

Jonah 3:1-5,10; Psalm 25; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Today's passages deal with both reception and communication of God's Word. Believers are partners with God in the joint venture of spreading the message. Believers are leaven to the world. The Word will have great impact.

In the fifth century B.C., the author of Jonah addressed an audience who demanded that God act according to human standards. To make his point, the author writes of a reluctant prophet who prefers to go west when commanded to go northeast. Jonah finally gives in and the entire populace is converted.

Convinced that the Second Coming of Jesus was imminent, Paul exhorted his Corinthian Christians not to get involved in a change of marital status. The married were becoming single, the single were marrying. Paul was wrong about the Second Coming timetable, but he is still a good example of a believer seeking to elaborate the meaning of the Word to others.

Mark's Jesus is in touch with God's plan. The expression "reign of God" connotes the royal program to provide for the needs of the people, especially the poor. Jesus calls for a radical change in thinking and acting and a trusting acceptance of the Good News. Mark then describes the call of the first four disciples and their total dedication to the Master. Their call is not a private enterprise. To hear the Word is to share the Word.

The barometer of our Christian values is our manner toward one another. If our first thought after Sunday Mass is being first out of the parking lot, then the Word has not had much impact on us. The gospel opens us to community.

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

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## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What do Jonah's and Jesus' announcements have in common? Were both calling people to conversion and to do good? Were these announcements intended for every nation and every person on earth? Did Jonah run away from Yahweh when he was called? Can you relate to that sometimes?

Does your culture help or hinder your detachment from possessions (toys, gadgets, messages about the security that "things" bring)? Explain.

Must you be called as a missionary and, for instance, go to Africa? Or could your call be to bring the Good News wherever you are, in whatever you do? Which way does Jesus call you?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES:** 4th Sunday of Year: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Ps 95; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28