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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 One and the Many In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Jesus heals a man who was possessed. But notice that when the demon-possessed man first talks to Jesus, he uses the first-person *plural* pronoun to refer to himself. He says, “What have you to do with *us*, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy *us*?”

Why does he say ‘us’? Why doesn’t he say ‘me’?

The answer, I think, is that although there is only one human body giving voice to these words, there is more than one mind behind the words. That is why that one man’s voice says ‘us’ to refer to himself.

The demon-possessed man in the Gospel Reading was single-minded only after Jesus had healed him. When Jesus heals the man, he does so by ridding him of all minds but one, the man’s own. In healing him, Jesus makes him single-minded. And so the Gospel Reading calls to our attention what an affliction it is to be double-minded.

Even just dealing with the double-mindedness of long bad habit can be miserable and devilishly difficult. Someone says to you when you are trying to diet and not doing particularly well, “Do you want another helping of pasta?” And what is the answer? *Do* you want more pasta? You do, you know you do, don’t you? And yet somehow you really don’t either.

And so, as we know from our own painful experience, being double-minded is a kind of slavery to our worst selves.

Real freedom is being able to do what *you* want to do. But if you have two minds about something, which mind is the real you? How can there be one real *you* when you are in two minds about something?

That’s why you aren’t free when you are double-minded. No matter what you do, you aren’t doing what *you* want to do because there isn’t just one you.

Like the demon-possessed man in the Gospel Reading, you will be free only when you are single-minded. But the demon-possessed man in the Gospel Reading was single-minded only after Jesus had healed him.

And so here is the lesson for us. In another Gospel text ([John 8:32](#)), Jesus tells his disciples that they will know the truth, and the truth will make them free. For those who will come to Jesus to be freed from their demons, he himself is that healing Truth that will make them free.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 4 **Fourth Sunday of the Year, January 28, 2018**
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jan	28	8:00 am	SFD	Oscar Laaker
			10:00 am	SP	Dwayne Bowman
Tue	Jan	30	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee & Vienna
Wed	Jan	31	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Feb	2	12:00pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Feb	3	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation of Sin
Sun	Feb	4	8:00 am	SFD	Tom Laaker
			10:00 am	SP	Gerald Hank

Birthdays:	
Jan 29	Anthony Kolb Arnold Morse
Feb 2	Susan Ward
Feb 3	Paul Widowski Deborah Retz

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Jan 28, 10 am Server: R, Slife, B Bertram Lector: Sabra Moore Gifts: Chuck, Lynn Stone Ushers:J Bergmann, S Hupe D Zmuda, M Palmer E. Minister B Bishop D. Bishop, S. Black Greeter: Vickie Anderson</p>	<p>Sun, Feb 4, 10 am Server:B Bertran, A Webb Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers,D Bishop, L Hinton P Widowski, M McMahan E. Minister A Dueker L Stoerger, V Anderson Greeters Geri Tesina</p>	<p>Sun, Feb 11, 10 am Server: R Slife , L Slife, Lector: Sarah Black Gifts:Roger, Annabeth Webb Ushers J Nelson, G Tesina Mt Slife, S Widowski E. Minister D Hopkins S Belske, B Bishop Greeter: Monica Query</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Jan 28: 8 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: M Moore, L Herbert Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Mary Treat</p>	<p>Sun, Feb 4: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: Parks Family Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Myron Cole</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Jan 28 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass10 am
- PSR Classes.....11am
- Victory Through Grace Ministry Presentation w brunch..11am
- Tues Jan 30 DOC Masses Shawnee and Vienna.....9 , 11 am
- RCIA Session.....7 pm
- Wed Jan 31 South Vicariate Pastoral Mt..Herrin.....12:00 pm
- Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Fri Feb 2 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
- Sat Feb 3 First Saturday Mass & Devotion at SFD.....8:30 am
- Faith Alive Board Mt.....10 am
- Sun Feb 4 Blessing of Throats through intercession St Blaise
- St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
- St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am
- PSR Classes.....11am
- First Sunday after mass Social in hall.....11am
- Liturgy Committee Mt.....following social
- Confirmation Retreat in parish center.....11am-3 pm



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.

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.

BLESSING OF THROATS THROUGH INTERCESSION OF ST BLAISE will be offered following masses next Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL will follow the mass next Sunday. The **Liturgy Committee** will hold its meeting in the hall after the social.

OLD PALM All are encouraged to bring palm branches from previous years for burning on February 11th to become ashes for the beginning of Lent. Marked containers are in the church entrances.

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION sign up sheet for Feb 8th is on the bulletin board. Parishioners are encouraged to participate. Signing the list will assure all times are covered.

CHILI AND DESSERT COOK-OFF entries are welcome for the February 11th parish event beginning shortly after 10 am mass. Prizes of \$25, 15, and 10 will be offered for chili and dessert winners. A sign-up list is on the bulletin board.

BEST LENT EVER is a free daily e-mail reflection with video links for each day of Lent from Dynamic Catholic. Reflections will follow topics in the Christmas book, Perfectly Yourself. You may sign up for the e-mails at dynamiccatholic.com/Lent.

WE SHOULD BE AMAZED! Every Sunday, we hear Jesus Christ speak to us in the Bible readings. Every Sunday. Every Liturgy. Today, we are amazed at his clarity, at his authority. Even the unclean spirit knows him to be Holy and God. · How do I see Jesus' holiness active in the world? · What do I need to hear from him? · What will that lead me to do?

Fourth Sunday of the Year

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 95; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

When we read the help-wanted ads, we usually look at the background, experience, and qualifications being sought. When it is a question of God's or the Church's calling, we may tend to disqualify ourselves. Today's readings show us that to respond to the help wanted ad for prophecy is to look beyond oneself to the problems of the community.

The author of the first reading lacks a direct commission from Yahweh to establish the prophetic office in Israel, so he reinterprets the divine manifestation on Mount Sinai (see Exodus 20:19-21). God uses intermediaries; Moses was the first. The author pictures the prophet not as self-trained but as one into whose mouth God places the words. The common good, rather than personal distinction, is emphasized.

Although Paul refers to himself as an apostle, he exercises a prophetic role as well. He does not place his own restrictions. Believing the Second Coming to be imminent, he attempts to achieve the good of the Corinthians, not his own good. Seeing himself as a go-between, he promotes the best interests of the community.

Mark sees Jesus as God's final spokesperson. In today's reading, Jesus teaches in the synagogue. The teaching style, however, differs greatly from that of the scribes, the "lay experts." He speaks prophetically. He does not quote the authorities, he teaches with authority. Jesus links his prophetic office with alleviating all that oppresses and depresses the human spirit. Jesus seeks not personal gain but comfort for the hurting.

Baptism empowers Christian spokespersons to address the community for the common good. Our God endorses comforting the depressed, helping the lonely, and visiting the shut-ins. Whenever we reach out to these and similar people, we communicate in a most realistic way the message of God. To share God's Word in action is nothing less than prophetic ministry.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Does God raise ordinary people from our midst to become prophets? Is there a cause for which you might become a prophet?

What are the anxieties you most feel? Do you have a way to deal with them? What virtue do you think might help most in your attempts to control anxieties? St. Paul recommends "adherence to the Lord without distraction."

Jesus "taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." Was there an incident that confirmed Jesus' teaching and showed people its authenticity? If you can't have absolute confirmation, as they did, what will work for you? Trust? Explain.

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 5th Sunday of Year: Job 7:1-4,6-7; Ps 147; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39