



Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett
Phone (618) 658 – 4501
E-mail: spccil@frontier.com
Web: www.stpaulvienna.org



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

Who Knew? Who knew the Messiah was born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem in that wintertime? In this [Gospel](#) Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out.

The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born because they could interpret the parts in the Old Testament that predicted the Messiah's birth. The magi from the East knew that the Messiah had been born because they could interpret the presence of the star in the sky. When the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to see for themselves, Herod the King ordered them to come back and tell him too.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted. For all these people, there was a way to know the birth of the Messiah. The priests could interpret Scripture, and the magi could read the stars. King Herod had the political power to command their knowledge and wisdom for his own purposes.

But what about people who lack the advantages of the priests and magi and who have no power to command others? How are they to know? Does God make provision only for the fortunate?

Consider the shepherds. They lacked the money needed for education, and so they lacked the ability to use Scripture or stars to know the birth of the Messiah. They had no power to command others to share the fruits of their education with them either.

But it isn't powerlessness or poverty that keeps a person from knowing the birth of the Messiah. In the end, it was not the shepherds but the powerful and wealthy King Herod, with his evil-hearted intentions, who did not know the baby Jesus was the Messiah. The magi didn't tell him, because God warned them in a dream not to. And so Herod the King didn't know.

In spite of their lack of all worldly advantages, the shepherds in fact outranked the king and all the others. They were by the side of the Messiah first, and they didn't have to figure out for themselves where his birth place was either.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night because they heard the angels sing.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 1 **Epiphany of the Lord, January 7, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jan	7	8:00 am	SFD	Priscilla Beis
			10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman
Tue	Jan	9	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee & Vienna
Wed	Jan	10	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Jan	11	11:30 am, 1 pm		Marion Penitentiary
Fri	Jan	12	12:00pm	SP	Fr Don Lenzini
Sun	Jan	14	8:00 am	SFD	Leola Barrett
			10:00 am	SP	Ray Nelson

St Paul, Vienna

Birthdays:
Jan 11 Alan Stachowiak

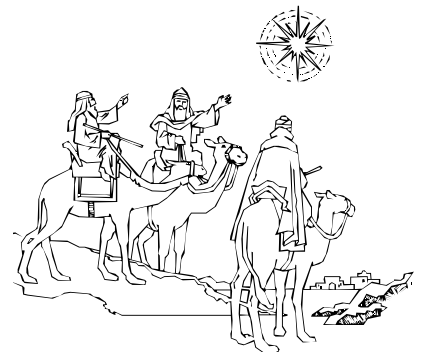
<p>Sun, Jan 7, 10 am Server: B Bertram, A Webb Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers: L Hinton, D Bishop P Widowski, F Dueker E. Minister D Hopkins P Shallenberger, V Anderson Greeter: Janet Hacker</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 14, 10 am Server: A Webb, B Bertran, Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: Josh, Jamie Starrat Ushers,G Tesina, J Nelson M McMahan, R Stoerger E. Minister F Dueker P Kalicki, S Bekske Greeters H & X Gruszczyk</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 21, 10 am Server: L Slife, R Slife Lector: Madonna Slife Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers P Kalicki, J Slife Mt Slife, S Widowski E. Minister M Nelson B. Palmer, P Widowski Greeter: Mike McMahan</p>
--	--	---

St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Jan 7: 8:00 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: L Herbert, M Moore Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Mary Treat</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 14: 8 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: M Moore, R Drone Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>
--	---

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun	Jan	7	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	8:00 am
			St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word....	10 am
			First Sunday Social.....	11 am
			PSR Classes.....	11am
			Take down Christmas Decorations	
Mon	Jan	8	SFD Parish Council Mt.....	4:00 pm
Tues	Jan	9	DOC Masses Shawnee and Vienna.....	9 , 11 am
			Bible Study-Luke with SFD.....	5 pm
Wed	Jan	10	Bible Study-Luke at St Paul.....	3 pm
			Weekday Mass.....	6:30 pm
Thr	Jan	11	USP Marion masses.....	11:30am, 1 pm
			Eucharistic Adoration at SP.....	4 – 7:30 pm
Fri	Jan	12	RCIA.....	8:30 am
			Weekday Mass.....	12:00 pm
			SP Finance Council Mt.....	5:30 pm
Sun	Jan	14	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	8:00 am
			St Paul Mass	10 am
			PSR Classes.....	11am



CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD will be offered during the weekend mass this Sunday at SP. All children age 3 through Third grade are welcome to participate following the opening prayer of the mass.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER MASS SOCIAL will be held this Sunday in the parish hall.

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SEASON ends with feast of Baptism of the Lord Jan 8. Decorations in church will be taken down this Sunday following the mass. Any help will be appreciated.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CLASSES will resume this Sunday at 11 am.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2017 will be prepared for distribution Jan 14th. Any missing contributions for 2017 need to be submitted by Jan 7th to be included.

SFD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held this Monday, 4 pm at the church. Council members are reminded to pick up the agenda.

BIBLE STUDY-LUKE will resume this week. It will be offered Tuesday, 5 pm for St Francis DeSales, and Wednesday, 3 pm at St Paul Parish Hall. All are welcome even if you haven't attended previous sessions. For info, contact Arlene Dueker 618-559-7803.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION sign up sheet for January 11, 4-7:30 pm is on bulletin board. Your assistance with prayer times is appreciated.

COMMUNITY AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be hosted at the Fellowship Baptist Church Hall (Senior Drive) in Vienna Mon, Jan 15th, 10 am to 6 pm. There is a current critical need for blood donations. Visit redcrossblood.org and enter VienaCm to schedule an appointment.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES FORMATION DAY will be presented at St Kateri Parish, Ridgway on Sat, Jan 13, 9am-3 pm. Parish Contact representatives (Karen Cole, St Francis DeSales parish, and Zach Garrett, St Paul parish) can give more information.

MAKE THE MESSENGER a part of your New Year's Resolution! 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. Subscription Renewal Weekend is Feb 4.

COMING AND GOING. They are alien visitors, Magi from the east, who seek out Jesus, the newborn king. They had "visas" from King Herod because he urged them on the journey. The story is about Jew and Gentile. About us and them. About coheirs and copartners, to use Saint Paul's language. All members of the same body in Christ Jesus. All sharing the one mystery, the one grace. · How do I help people come to Jesus? · What gifts do I have? What treasures can I give? · How will I treat the alien?

Feast of Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Believers are first and foremost recipients of the light who are challenged to penetrate darkness. Today's readings understand community members as the bearers of gifts to others. To share one's gift is to overcome the darkness and usher in the light.

During the gloomy days after the exile, the prophet we call Third Isaiah sought to energize his Judean community. In this world of despair the one point of light is Jerusalem because God's presence illuminates it. The intensity of this light attracts foreign nations. They not only see God's glory but become Yahweh's missionaries carrying the message to distant peoples, opening up the treasures of Israel's faith to others.

The author of Ephesians speaks of Paul as a steward who was entrusted with God's great plan for all of humanity. The Gentiles have received the Spirit and are partners with Israel in the covenant responses. As a steward, Paul is compelled to share this divine insight with others.

Matthew writes at a critical moment in the life of the community. Many Gentiles were entering the community, but many Jews were leaving (see Matthew 21:42-43). Matthew tells the story of the astrologers in order to show that the admission of the Gentiles is part of God's plan. The pagan astrologers are the first to come and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews. The Jewish leadership rejects this king. The story eases community tensions.

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

(c) Liguori Publications, All Rights Reserved.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

The First Reading says that, though darkness covered the earth, light and glory had come to Jerusalem. Are you always aware of God's light and glory? What about God's actions in your life?

Paul says that a revelation was given him by the Spirit. It said that Christ's life was too great to be limited to its starting place. His life was for all generations and not only the Jews but the Gentiles as well. All are "coheirs, members of the same body." Did the star's light shine on each and every person, precious and irreplaceable, in God's eyes? Do we all need each other?

God sent the Magi a message that caused them to ride camels half way across the known world. What would motivate you to put in this kind of effort? For them, what was worth this kind of search? These wise men were responsive to revelations from God and their openness brought them to Bethlehem. They were not disappointed. Is there a lesson here?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 2nd Sunday of Year: 1Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 John 1:35-42