



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

Peace, Consolation, Glory In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Simeon is waiting in the Temple, because the Holy Spirit has revealed to him that he will meet the Messiah there. When Simeon does finally see Jesus, the Gospel tells us, Simeon had been waiting a long time.

Waiting can be so hard. Think of the young mother waiting for lab results about her cancer, or the old lady waiting for news about her son in Afghanistan. Think of the aspiring novelist waiting to hear if the press will accept his manuscript or the scientist waiting to know if his life's work will be honored with a great prize. Peace is so often lost by such a wait.

If God himself gives a person consolation, he will have God's peace as well. While a person is waiting, he is anxious—what if the thing he is waiting for never comes? And he is sad or sorrowful, because he does not yet have the thing he wants and is waiting for. Then there's the undeniable humiliation of having to wait. A person who waits knows that what he wants depends on things outside his own control. Having to wait brings home to him his vulnerability and neediness.

And so look at what Simeon says when his wait is finally over and he sees Jesus.

Seeing this baby, Simeon says, let Simeon die in peace. This baby overturns anxiety and brings peace—not a theoretical kind of peace which has no purchase on a person's emotions, but real peace, the kind that brings with it easy breathing.

And why peace? Because, as the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon, this baby is God's consolation for all his people. If God himself gives a person consolation, he will have God's peace as well.

And, finally, this peace is not the kind of peace that makes a person ready to accept defeat with resignation. No, on the contrary: it makes a person rise to glory. That is why Simeon says in his prayer that this baby brings glory to God's people.

And so here is the thing for us to think about at Christmas time. In our anxieties, in our sorrows, in our defeats and humiliations, can we turn and look at this baby? No matter what anxiety, sorrow, or defeat the world has given us, nothing can take this baby away from us. Our consolation, our peace, and our glory lie with him.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 18 # 51 Feast of the Holy Family, December 31, 2017

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Dec	31	8:00 am	SFD	Edward Beis
			10:00 am	SP	Philip & Leola Barrett
			6:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Tue	Jan	2	9, 11 am	DOC	No Masses
Wed	Jan	3	6:30 pm	SP	No Mass
Fri	Jan	5	12:00pm	SP	No Mass
Sat	Jan	6	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation of Sin
Sun	Jan	7	8:00 am	SFD	Priscilla Beis
			10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman

St Paul, Vienna

Birthdays:

Jan 1 Verna Green
 Jan 5 Morgan Bishop
 Jan 6 Ruby Widowski

<p>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</p>	<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>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Dec 31: 8 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Cecilia Parks Gifts: Parks Family Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<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>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Dec 31 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
 St Paul Mass10 am
 Mary, Mother of God mass opportunity.SP..6:30 pm
 Mon Jan 1 Fr Tom begins clergy retreat
 Sat Jan 6 First Saturday mass and devotion at SFD.....8:30 am
 Faith Alive Board Mt.....10:00 am
 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



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. If you didn't receive a book at Christmas, additional copies are available in the church entrance.

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

MONTHLY JANUARY CALENDAR is in bulletin this week.

WORDS OF GRACE daily scripture reflection booklets for Jan-Mar are available in the church entrance.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD – Monday, January 1, 2018 - **Not a day of obligation this year, but still a day to keep holy.** Holy Mary has the title *Theotokos*, God-bearer, given to her long ago. Because of Baptism, we, too, bear that same Christ in the world. What can I promise on this new day and new year to be and do? An opportunity for mass will be offered at 6:30 pm on Dec 31st (New Year's Eve).

FR TOM ON RETREAT Monday through Friday of this week at King's House in Belleville. In case of emergency, contact 618-759-1707.

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

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

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CLASSES will resume next 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.

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

THANK YOU...Fr Tom expresses his thanks to all parishioners for the pastor's Christmas gift.

HOLY FAMILY Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Each of them was called in a unique way to love and serve their family, but the power of their love within also went out to the world. In the same way, our vocation should strengthen and sanctify those around us first and then be moved out into the world for the sanctity of others. Let us pray also and reflect on the gifts we have been given during this year and discern how we can put those to the service of others in 2018.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON THE NEW YEAR.

Feast of Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Family life and community life go together. Family life is not just the intimate, private relationship we sometimes imagine. The joys and sorrows, the successes and failures of family relate directly to the achievements and disasters of society at large. Today's Scripture sees the smaller unit of family as having a vital impact on the larger unit of community. The activity within the home transcends the environs of family to embrace all humankind.

Psalm 128 is a wisdom psalm that shows the consequences of walking in God's ways. The family will enjoy prosperity. According to verse 4, job and family are great blessings in themselves. The psalmist links the blessing of the God-fearing family with the prosperity of Jerusalem and the peace of Israel. Family life and community life go together.

The author of Colossians presents general principles for life in Christ and specific applications for the Christian home. Love is the quality that binds all the others together and brings them to perfection. Christians are members of the one body that is Christ himself (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-31) and that applies to the Christian home as well.

Luke presents Mary and Joseph as the latter-day Hannah and Elkanah, who presented their son Samuel in the Temple in Shiloh (see 1 Samuel 1 and 2). Luke singles out Mary as the one who will suffer pain when Israel fails to respond. Mary's destiny is bound with the destiny of her people.

Responsibility means that we give as well as receive; respect implies that we honor each person's innate dignity; and concern suggests that we look to the good of others as well as ourselves. These are but three of the domestic virtues that affect the community.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Why do you think Sirach says that good things happen to you when you honor your parents (prayers heard, sins atoned, long life, made happy by children)?

"Over all these put on love." What is the only thing God asks of us? What happens to people when they are loved? What would the world be like if everyone really loved others? What kinds of things would disappear off the face of the earth?

Luke mentions the Spirit three times regarding Simeon. Through the Spirit Simeon recognized Jesus as the glory of Israel and the light to the rest of the world. Do you let the same Spirit who lives in you help you recognize Jesus in your daily life? How?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12