



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

**Open to Sacrifice** In the [First Reading](#), Abraham offers his beloved son as a sacrifice to God. The [Gospel](#) Reading identifies Jesus as God's beloved Son. The two readings together remind us that God offers his beloved Son as our sacrifice to God. Christ, our Passover lamb, is sacrificed for us. ([1 Cor. 5:7](#)).

And so the First Reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect on sacrifice. What is a sacrifice? And why would God want one, from Abraham or from us through Christ?

The first thing to see is that a sacrifice is a peculiar kind of gift.

Witnesses reported afterwards that Kolbe prayed and sang hymns until the end when his voice failed. In the case of ordinary gifts, which aren't sacrifices, the person who *gets* the gift is the one who benefits from the gift-giving. That person has the thing given, and if that thing was good enough to give, it is a good thing to get too. So the gift-receiver is the primary beneficiary of ordinary gift-giving.

But a sacrifice is a different kind of gift. When one person gives something as a sacrifice, however great his gift is, in the giving of it he himself receives something of very great value. In sacrifice, the gift-giver is the primary beneficiary of gift-giving.

To see this point, consider Maximilian Kolbe, who sacrificed his life for Franciszek Gajowniczek at Auschwitz.

The Nazis had randomly selected 10 prisoners to die, and Franciszek Gajowniczek was one of them. When he was picked, he cried out, "Oh, my poor wife! My poor children! I will never see them again!" But Maximilian Kolbe stepped forward and offered to take Franciszek's place. Kolbe knew that the selected prisoners would be slowly starved to death in a dark and airless bunker. But Kolbe offered his life for that of his fellow prisoner anyway. Witnesses reported afterwards that Kolbe prayed and sang hymns until the end when his voice failed.

In his sacrifice, Kolbe became a person in whom the beauty of love shone so brightly that his story now illumines all who hear about it. He gave his life to give life to Franciszek, but he himself received far more than he gave. Who would not want to be as lovely a soul as Kolbe was?

And so God, who lacks for nothing, is glad to have the gift of our sacrifices, not because he gets something great from them, but because we do. Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 8 **Second Sunday of Lent, February 25, 2018**

**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Feb	25	8:00 am	SFD	For the Parishioners
			10:00 am	SP	Leola Barrett
Tue	Feb	27	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee & Vienna
Wed	Feb	28	6:30 pm	SP	Leola Barrett
Fri	Mar	2	12:00pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Mar	3	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation for Sin
Sun	Mar	4	8:00 am	SFD	Britney Deaton
			10:00 am	SP	Joann Marshinski

<b>Birthdays:</b> Feb 25 Diana Pruemmer Vanessa Hopkins Feb 26 Will Ashford Feb 27 Monica Querrey Mar 1 Geri Tesina Mar 3 Marsha Nelson Jeremy Nelson
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**St Paul, Vienna**

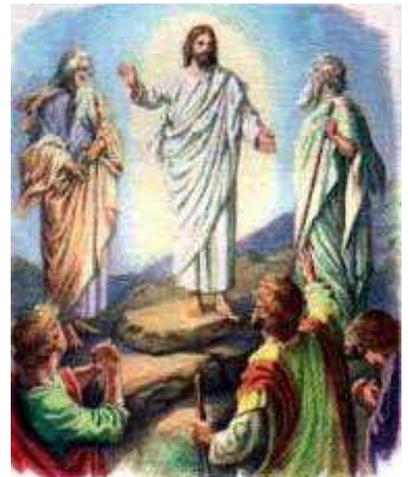
<p><b>Sun, Feb 25, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b>R Slife, B Bertran  <b>Lector:</b> Joe Nelson  <b>Gifts:</b> L Lance, G Tesina  <b>Ushers,</b>R Stoerger, Mt Slife  D Zmuda Sr, F Dueker  <b>E. Minister</b> B Palmer  P Widowski, P Kalicki  <b>Greeters</b> Carolyn Johnson</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 4, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> A Webb,  <b>Lector:</b> Rhi Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers</b> L Hinton, D Bishop  P Widowski, F Dueker  <b>E. Minister</b> S Moore  D Bishop, A Dueker  <b>Greeter:</b> Cathy Kruep</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 11, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> R Slife, L Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Zach Garrett  <b>Gifts:</b> P &amp;A Widowski  <b>Ushers:</b>,M McMahan, J Nelson  G Tesina, S Hupe  <b>E. Minister</b> S Black  V Anderson, L Stoerger  <b>Greeter:</b> Bill &amp; Billie Porter</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Feb 25: 8 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Lector:</b> LaVonne Herbert  <b>Gifts:</b> R Drone, M Cole  <b>Usher:</b> David Parks  <b>E. Min:</b> Cecilia Parks</p>	<p><b>Sun, Mar 4: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Mary Treat  <b>Lector:</b> Myron Cole  <b>Gifts:</b> L Herbert/ M Moore  <b>Usher</b> Stan Treat  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Feb 25 Stations of the Cross 20 minutes before masses  
St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am  
St Paul Mass .....10 am  
PSR Classes.....11am
- Tues Feb27 DOC Masses Shawnee and Vienna.....9, 11 am  
Scripture Study at SFD church.....4:30 pm  
RCIA Session.....7 pm
- Wed Feb 28 Scripture Study at SP hall.....4:00 pm  
Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Fri Mar 2 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm  
St Paul Fish Fry.....serving 5:00-7:00 pm
- Sat Mar 3 First Sataurday Mass & Devotion at SFD..8:30 am  
Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Paul...5-6:00 pm
- Sun Mar 4 Catholic Services and Ministry Appeal Weekend  
Stations of the Cross 20 minutes before masses  
St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am  
St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word.....10 am  
PSR Classes.....11am  
First Sunday Social at St Paul.....11am



**LEADERS FOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Devotion following the Stations of the Cross will be offered on the Sundays of Lent 20 minutes before mass. A leader sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**ST PAUL PARISH COUNCIL** Minutes of Feb 21 meeting are available in bulletin rack.

**LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULES FOR MARCH & APRIL** are available in the bulletin rack. Thanks to all who serve faithfully at our celebrations of the Eucharist.

**CRS RICE BOWL** is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. Through CRS Rice Bowl, we deepen our personal experience of Lent, and hear stories from brothers and sisters in need worldwide. We devote our Lenten prayers, fasting and gifts to transform our relationship with God and neighbor. Rice Bowls are available on table in church entrance. Info at [Crsricebowl.org](http://Crsricebowl.org)

**SCRIPTURE STUDY** A group study/reflection on the Gospel of Luke will be held at St Francis DeSales Church this Tuesday, 4:30 pm and also at St Paul Parish Hall on Wednesday, 4 pm. Participants are asked to bring a bible. The sessions will be led by Arlene Dueker.

**FISH FRY** The first of two fish fries sponsored by St Paul Church will be Friday, March 2, 5-7 pm. You can support the fish fry by posting flyers (available on table in foyer) in public places, and signing up on the bulletin board to assist with various tasks at the fish fry. Help is needed with providing desserts serving food.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is scheduled on Saturdays of Lent 5-6 pm at SP

**CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL** Next weekend, every parish in the diocese will be participating in the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. This annual collection supports 18 ministries and agencies in our diocese whose scope of service could not be duplicated by an individual parish. Our parish goal for the appeal is \$2900.00, asking everyone to help as you are able. You will have an opportunity to make your pledge at Mass next weekend. No gift is to great or small. If you do not receive a pledge card, please use one of the envelopes on the table by the entrance to church.

**LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION** A container is in the foyer to collect non-perishable food items for the DayStar Food Program in Cairo.

**CD HIGHLIGHT** Swimming Upstream: Going Against the Current Culture. In this empowering talk, Steve Ray shares what it means to be a Christian in today's world. By examining the lives and martyrdoms of the early Christians and understanding how they transformed the pagan Greco-Roman culture, Steve gives us a blueprint for the New Evangelization. Learn from early Christians how to swim upstream against the current culture and become a witness for Christ.

**SURPRISING AND MYSTERIOUS.** Who is this Jesus shining before us in dazzling white clothes? The gospel tells us this: law-giver like Moses, prophet like Elijah, beloved Son like no other! He is the one who intercedes for us, who prays for us, who desires beyond hope for us an obediently devoted life now and a final heavenly life to come. In listening to the Beloved Son, what do I need to hear? How will this hearing change or better my behaviors?

## Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2,9,10-13,15-18; Psalm 116; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10

How easy we bandy about the word "love". We love pizza, we love our city, we love our friends. Today's readings see love not as a momentary emotion but as a lifelong commitment. Nothing is too demanding to show one's profound dedication.

The Genesis account of the sacrifice of Isaac is dramatic. God has been promising Abraham a host of descendants and possession of a great land. The promise now seems jeopardized when God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Yet Abraham will go to even this extent. Abraham's love of God means letting go, even of Isaac.

"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31). To dramatize the extent of God's willingness to assist us, Paul appeals to a specific kind of love. "He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?" (Romans 8:32). Thus God and Abraham both refuse to set limits on their capacity to love.

Mark's account of the Transfiguration is part of his disclosure of Jesus' messianic identity. Jesus has informed the twelve that he must suffer, die, and only then rise again (see Mark 8:31). The Lord of Easter Sunday must first be the servant of Good Friday. The same is true for all Christians. To follow Jesus, one must deny self, find self, and then lose oneself again (see Mark 8:35). Thus the Transfiguration relates both to Jesus' transfiguration and to the Christian's transformation through self-giving -- letting go.

Letting go takes many forms. Life may call us to let go of a career that is damaging to self and family, of a habit that is destroying health or relationships, of purely selfish interests. These are but a few examples of that central reality in life -- that loving means letting go.

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

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### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In [Genesis 15:5](#) God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. It is to this promise that Abraham clings as he raises the knife to kill his son. Where do you fall on the continuum when blind trust is required of you, with 1 being low and 10 being high?

How does intervening "for" someone, taking a stand for him or her, him or her relate to the commandment, "love your neighbor?" For whom can you intervene? Do you ever do it?

Pope Francis speaks about the Transfiguration. We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to "descend the mountain" and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual.

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES:** Third Sunday of Lent: A: Exodus 17:3-7; Ps 95; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42