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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 Blind Man Who Wanted For Nothing The Psalm says, “The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.” But the [Gospel](#) Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn't the man born blind have something that he lacks?

The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to allay their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. “Why was this man born blind?” they ask Jesus. “Did this man sin or was it his parents?” If it was *anybody's* sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won't come to their families, at least if they all try hard not to sin.

But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn't it? It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin?

Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man's blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It's something about the future, not something about the past, that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him.

But Jesus' explanation looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn't it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works of God can be manifest in him later?

But think about that blind man himself. At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished, outcast nobody of a beggar. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.

Who would not want to be like him?

And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 10 **Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 11, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Mar 11	8:00 am	SFD	Britney Deaton
		10:00 am	SP	Jim & Mary Anne Mudd
Tue	Mar 13	9, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee & Vienna
Wed	Mar 14	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Mar 16	12:00pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Mar 18	8:00 am	SFD	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Olga Schwartz

Birthdays:

Mar 13 Anna Mae Street
Matt Slife
Mar 15 Christine Ross
M.G. Jones
Mar 17 Annabeth Webb
Bill Anderson

ST PAUL, VIENNA

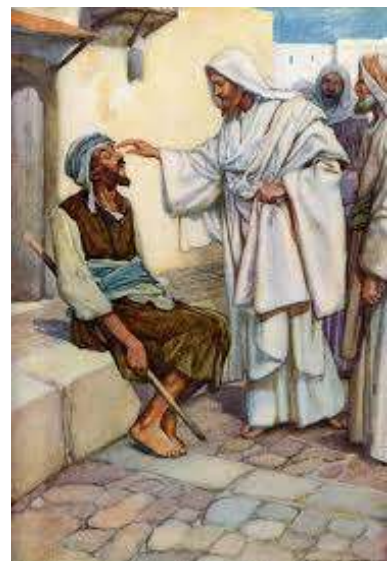
<p>Sun, Mar 11, 10 am Server: R Slife, L Slife Lector: Zach Garrett Gifts: P & A Widowski Ushers: M McMahan, J Nelson G Tesina, S Hupe E. Minister S Black V Anderson, L Stoerger Greeter: Bill & Billie Porter</p>	<p>Sun, Mar 18, 10 am Server: B Bertran, M Bergmann Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers, P Kalicki, Mt Slife J Bergmann, S Widowski E. Minister D Hopkins, S. Belske, B Bishop Greeters S & P Widowski</p>	<p>Sun, Mar 25, 10 am Server: A Webb, B Bertram Lector: J Nelson, S Widowski Gifts: S & P Widowski Ushers M Palmer, D Zmuda L Stoerger, R Stoerger E. Minister B Palmer M Nelson, P Kalicki Greeter: Sandy Belske</p>
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ST FRANCIS DESALES, STONEFORT

<p>Sun, Mar 11: 8 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: R Drone, D Parks Usher: Fred Deaton E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<p>Sun, Mar 4: 8:00 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: M Moore/R Drone Usher David Parks E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Mar 11 Catholic Relief Services Collection & Time Springs Fwd
 Stations of the Cross 20 minutes before masses
 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
 St Paul Mass & Blood Pressure checks.....10 am
 Easter Choir practice.....in church.....11am
 PSR Classes.....11am
 Mon Mar12 SFD Scripture Study.....4:30 pm
 Tues Mar13 DOC Masses Shawnee and Vienna.....9 , 11 am
 RCIA Session.....7 pm
 Wed Mar14 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
 Fri Mar 16 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
 St Paul Fish Fry.....5-7:00 pm
 Sat Mar 17 St Paul Parish Workday.....8:30am-Noon
 Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Paul.....5-6:00 pm
 Sun Mar 18 Stations of the Cross 20 minutes before masses
 St Francis DeSales Mass.....8:00 am
 Easter Choir practice at St Paul.....8:45 am
 St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy.....10 am
 Oral cancer screening at SP before/following mass
 PSR Classes.....11am
 Council of Catholic Women Mt (Altar Sodality.11am



STATIONS OF THE CROSS Devotion following the Stations of the Cross will be offered on the Sundays of Lent 20 minutes before mass.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION This week, we are taking up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to respond to Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

THE SCRUTINIES Rites celebrated on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect (those adults chosen to receive the sacraments of Initiation); to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The faithful of the assembly participate to support the elect (Carlos Baker and Katie Pobst) and to open themselves to renewal during the Lenten season.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be offered this Sunday at SP by Peggy Widowski of the Wellness Committee. Available in parent room off foyer.

EASTER CHOIR Anyone who interested in participating in an Easter Choir is asked to join practices in church Mar 11, 11am; Mar 18, 8:45am; Mar 25, 11am and Apr 1, 8:45am.

CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL Last weekend was pledge day for 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.. No gift is too great or small. So far 12 households have pledged \$2,430.00. If you do not receive a pledge card, please use one of the envelopes on the table by the entrance to church.

FISH FRY The next fish fry sponsored by St Paul Church will be Friday, March 16, 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.

PARISH WORK DAY AT ST PAUL The Building and Grounds Committee has organized a workday for Saturday, March 17th beginning 8:30 am. Projects include tree removal and trimming, tree planting, mulching rose beds, window washing, gutter repair, add vertical drain pipe by hall, repair floor seam.

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

ORAL CANCER SCREENING Dr. Elizabeth Moore DMD will do oral cancer screenings on Sunday March 18th before and after Mass in the cry room at St Paul..

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

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN aka Altar Sodality will meet on Sun, March 18, 11 am following mass. A collection for their ministry will be taken up after mass.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Each day we are bombarded with facts about local, national, and international events. The media tell of murders, revolutions, natural disasters. All of this fashions our world view. Today's Scripture also confronts us with reality and provides an opportunity to reassess our priorities and retest our standards. Are the decisions we make really Christian decisions?

David's rise to royalty is described in the first reading. The story of Israel's youthful hero teaches that we should not judge by mere appearances. Samuel, in reviewing the sons of Jesse, must have regarded David as the least likely candidate. Yet the shepherd boy is ultimately chosen, proving again that God's Spirit can also rush on the lowly. David's good looks were not the decisive factor: humans "look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (vs. 7).

Ephesians uses images of light and darkness to contrast pagan and Christian ways. Believers are light in the Lord, they are to live as children of light. Such an existence produces goodness, justice, and truth.

The same imagery carries into the gospel passage from John. The blind man progresses from darkness to light: He regards Jesus as a man, then a prophet, and finally confesses that he is the son of God. The Pharisees first appear to accept the blind man's healing but then begin to doubt and finally deny Jesus' heavenly origins. They end up refusing to see -- rendering themselves blind.

Christians look beyond appearances. Only eyes of faith will see the helpless, the indigent, and the derelict as brothers and sisters in Jesus. Those who radiate the light of Christ will see the good in wayward members of the family. Faith's vision enables us to evaluate the policies and programs of both church and state: Are they right because they have the endorsement of authority or do they genuinely benefit all God's people? It all depends on your point of view.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L. (c) Liguori Publications, All Rights Reserved.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Does the right grace come along with the call? What in this reading tells you that? When you feel you have been summoned to perform some task for God, what do you do? Assume that God will give you what you need to get the job done? Or back down at the thought of obstacles?

Define personal and national "darkness" as it exists in the world today. St. Paul says that you are light. If you could, what darkness in the world would you dispel? Is there some way you could do this on a small scale where you are right now?

The Gospel tracks the blind man's path from spiritual blindness to light. Can you relate to your own spiritual blindness slowly turning to light in your life?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Fifth Sunday of Lent: A: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 130; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45