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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

Softening the Heart In today's [Gospel](#), Jesus promises the Samaritan woman “living water which shall become a fountain within her, leaping up to provide eternal life.” The liturgy on this Lenten Sunday places Jesus’ promise within the context of the Exodus account of water coming from the rock of Horeb.

The Responsorial [Psalm 95](#) refers both to the “Rock of our salvation” and also to hardened hearts. On the one hand, there is the Rock from which the water of eternal life flows (God). On the other hand, there are rocks (our hearts) which we seek to soften in Lent by “prayer, fasting and works of mercy.”

We believe, with Paul, that “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” That love of God should make us a forgiving people, one that enables the world to “be brought together in unity and peace.”

Our goal is to “harden not our hearts:” to be concerned for the poor and suffering, to forgive the criminal, to welcome the stranger, to love our enemies.

“If only you recognized God’s gift ... ”

By becoming for people a model of merciful love for others, Christ proclaims by his actions even more than by his words that call to mercy which is one of the essential elements of the gospel ethos.

In this instance it is not just a case of fulfilling a commandment or an obligation of an ethical nature: it is also a case of satisfying a condition of major importance for God to reveal himself in his mercy to man: “The merciful ... shall obtain mercy.”

Pope John Paul II, [Dives in Misericordia](#), 1980: 3

Gerald Darring

Vol 19 # 9 **Third Sunday of Lent, March 4, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Mar 4	8:00 am	SFD	Britney Deaton
		10:00 am	SP	Joann Marshinski
Tue	Mar 6,9,	11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee & Vienna
Wed	Mar 7	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Mar 8	11:30am, 1 pm	Marion	Penitentiary
Fri	Mar 9	12:00pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Mar 11	8:00 am	SFD	Britney Deaton
		10:00 am	SP	Jim & Mary Anne Mudd

Birthdays: Mar 6 Beth Palmer Mae Birmingham Mar 8 Pat Kinkead Ella Bergmann Joan Stanfill Mar 9 Bill Porter Mar 10 Beverly Bishop Nathan Zmuda

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Mar 4, 10 am Server: A Webb, Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers L Hinton, D Bishop P Widowski, F Dueker E. Minister S Moore D Bishop, A Dueker Greeter: Cathy Kruep</p>	<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>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

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

- 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
- Mon Mar 5 SFD Parish Council Mt.....4 pm
- Tues Mar 6 DOC Masses Shawnee and Vienna.....9 , 11 am
 Scripture Study at SFD church.....4:30 pm
 RCIA Session.....7 pm
- Wed Mar 7 Scripture Study at SP hall.....4:00 pm
 Weekday Mass.....6:30 pm
- Thr Mar 8 Marion BOP Masses.....11:30am, 1 pm
 Eucharistic Adoration at SP.....4 – 7:30pm
- Fri Mar 9 Weekday Mass.....12:00 pm
- Sat Mar 10 Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Paul.5-6:00 pm
- 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 Mass10 am
 PSR Classes.....11am



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

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 and to open themselves to renewal during the Lenten season.

CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL This 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 this weekend. No gift is too 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.

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

EASTER CHOIR Anyone who is interested in participating in an Easter Choir is asked to gather around the piano following mass this Sunday morning or contact Pam Shallenberger 217-714-4568.

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL Parishioners and visitors are encouraged to spend a little time together in the hall following today's mass. Light refreshments provided.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is provided this Thursday, 4-7:30 pm at St Paul. It is an appropriate Lenten opportunity for prayer.

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

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

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES Next Sunday, our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRS). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here at home and abroad. Next Sunday, help Jesus in disguise and give generously

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.

THANK YOU to all workers, donors and participants of the Fish Fry on March 2.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN aka Altar Sodality Meeting scheduled on March 11 has been moved to Sun, March 18, 11 am following mass.

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42

We live in a world of progress reports, work evaluations, and periodic reassessments. We hope to get a higher wage or a better position because of our improved output or more efficient management. Today's readings tell of a God whose graciousness does not depend on our work ethic or our desire to succeed. God's desire to promote our cause is based solely on God's love for the sake of loving. For our God, love is its own reward.

The Exodus passage speaks of a place called Massah and Meribah. Yahweh tends to the needs of Yahweh's people in the desert. Nevertheless the people attack the very purpose of the Exodus: "Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" (Exodus 17:3). Israel seems to reject God's plan of salvation, yet the Lord will continue meeting their needs because it is the nature of God to do so.

Paul writes today about the peace that comes from being right with God. Through the ups and downs of life, the Christian knows God in Jesus. Paul insists that Christ freely chose to die for godless humans. The self-giving of Christ seems so incomprehensible; his death is the great proof of God's love.

John writes that the sending of the Son is grounded in God's love for the world (see John 3:16). Jesus brings the living water, God's revelation, to the Samaritans -- who were considered renegade or second-class by the Jews. Jesus talks not only with a Samaritan but with a Samaritan woman, a reversal of acceptable practice in first-century Judaism in Palestine. The woman brings the message of Jesus to her people who then accept Jesus as the Savior of the world. For John this is the fulfillment of Jesus' mission: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

Love is to be given unconditionally in the manner of our God whose very essence is to look to the welfare of others. In a pragmatic world the gospel's message is: Love is its own reward.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Think of all the ways water is important to your life. The name of the mountain where Moses struck the rock was Horeb, which means "dry" or "desolate." What is the significance of this and of the water imagery in salvation history?

Everything has been done for us. Christ died for all of us, made us deserving and gave us his Spirit to pour God's love into our hearts. What is our part?

"Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans," the Gospel says. And the woman at the well was a Samaritan. How did Jesus handle this barrier, and the gender issue at the well? When was the only other time Jesus mentions his thirst?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Fourth Sunday of Lent: A: 1Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a; Ps 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41