



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

Sat – 5:30 pm; 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

Success and Failure The [First Reading](#) begins with the voice of God's servant telling us that he has a vocation from the Lord. God has made him into a sharp-edged sword, a polished arrow, an impressive weapon of the Lord's.

This weapon isn't meant for the destruction of people, though. It's meant for the destruction of the evil that keeps people from God. The servant of God is called to bring God's people, the Israelites, back to God.

This is a great vocation, isn't it?

This is what God's servant says: my God is my strength. I will be glorious *in the sight of the Lord*. But then the voice of God's servant continues, and it tells us what has become of this great vocation. "I toiled in vain," God's servant says. He worked hard; but, as it turns out, he thinks that he spent his strength uselessly. In short, God's servant thinks that he failed, failed, failed! Here is what has come of all his labor: NOTHING!

What person who is past adolescence does not remember his youthful enthusiasms with perplexity? What happened to those dreams, those hopes, those great desires to serve the Lord gloriously? And what person who is past mid-life does not shake his head sadly over the results of his life's labor? Where did all that work and toil go? How did it come to so little?

What happened to the call of the Lord to each of us, to serve him gloriously?

The answer is implicit in the next part of the dialogue in the First Reading.

The voice of the Lord answers the voice of God's servant. It is too little for you just to bring the Israelites back to God, the Lord says. No, you will do this and much more! You will be a light to all the nations, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.

And so here is the lesson for us in our sadness, in our perplexity, in all our failure. In the First Reading, after all his discouragement, this is what God's servant says: my God is my strength. I will be glorious *in the sight of the Lord*.

Our hope is in the strength of the Lord, not in our own strength. And if we are not glorious in our own eyes, we will yet be glorious in the eyes of the Lord. It is a wonderful hope, isn't it?

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 25 **Nativity of John the Baptist, June 24, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jun 24	10:00 am	SP	Caryn Zmuda
		12:00 pm	SFD	For the Parishioners
Tue	Jun 26	9am, 11 am	Shawnee, Vienna	DOC
Wed	Jun 27	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Jun 29	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Jun 30	5:30 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Sun	Jul 1	8:00 am	SFD	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Loretta Petges

Birthdays	
Jun 27	Nathaniel Ross
Jun 30	Mina Moore Michael Moore
Jul 1	Carlos Baker

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Jun 24, 10 am Server: L Slife, R Slife Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Ruth Brown, Teresa Carr Ushers: M McMahan, D Zmuda, L Stoerger, R Stoerger E. Minister: F Dueker, D Hopkins, S Moore Greeter: Cathy Kruep</p>	<p>Sun, Jul 1, 10 am Server: R Slife, C Bergmann Lector: Steve Pobst Gifts: J Cecchi, L Coleman Ushers: G Tesina, M Palmer, S Hupe, P Widowski E. Minister: S Bekske, B Palmer, A Dueker Greeter: Janet Hacker</p>	<p>Sun, Jul 8, 10 am Server: L Slife, M Bergmann Lector: Sabra Moore Gifts: Garrett Family Ushers: S Widowski, D Bishop, Mt Slife, L Hinton, E. Minister: P Widowski, V Anderson, P Shallenberger Greeter: Geri Tesina</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Jun 24: 12:00 pm Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: Treat Family Usher: David Parks E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>	<p>Sun, Jul 1: 8:00 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: R Drone, D Parks Usher: Myron Cole E. Min: Brenda Morse</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sat Jun 23 Saturday mass5:30 pm
- Sun Jun 24 St Paul Mass10 am
 Blood Pressure cks before and after mass
 St Francis DeSales Noon Mass and Picnic .. 12:00pm
- Tues Jun 26 DOC Masses at Shawnee and Vienna...9am & 11am
 July Calendar info deadline
- Wed Jun 27 Weekday Mass.....5:30 pm
 Joint Parish Council Mt...hall.....6:00 pm
- Thr Jun 28 Mass at Marion Penitentiary.....11:30 am, 1 pm
- Fri Jun 29 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
- Sat Jun 30 Saturday mass5:30 pm
- Sun Jul 1 Peter's Pence Collection for Holy Father
 St Francis DeSales Mass 8:00am
 St Paul Mass10 am
 First Sunday after mass social at SP.....11 am



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be offered by Frank Dueker, member of the Parish Wellness team, before and after the Sunday mass this weekend.

WORDS OF GRACE daily scripture reflection booklets for July-Sept are available in the foyer this weekend for anyone interested in using them.

ST FRANCIS DESALES PARISH PICNIC will begin with noon mass, June 24, followed by a potluck meal with meat provided. Parishioners of St Paul and St Francis are invited. Oral history reflections connected with people and events will be invited following the meal.

JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on Wednesday, June 27th, 6:00 pm in St Paul Parish hall. Council members are asked to pick up agenda this weekend.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION July 1 we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

THANK YOU....To Cathy Kruep for organizing the Miner Baseball parish activity.
...to all the volunteers who assisted with operation of the Faith Alive Store last week.
...to all who supported the Baby Bottle Collection for Hope Unlimited.

SUMMER SPIRITUAL LISTENING opportunities are offered on the CD rack in the church foyer. You might consider **Religionless Spirituality: Why We Need the Church**. Renowned Scripture scholar and author, Dr. Tim Gray, provides a fascinating explanation of the importance of the visible Church and the centrality of God on Earth. He offers incredible insights that make clear the role of the Church as an essential part of God's plan for salvation, which are sure to help those who have left her, or who mistakenly claim to be "spiritual, but not religious"

SAVE THE DATE Joint Parish day, Saturday, July 28 at Lake Glendale. Swimming 11am, Picnic Lunch, with options of boating, biking, hiking. More details to follow.

VOCATION CORNER "As an adolescent, I was fortunate enough to meet our order's founder, Mother Martha Maria Ramirez Mora. She helped me see the Word of God as a Living Word, addressed personally to me. I began to regularly read the Good News, pray the rosary, visit the Blessed Sacrament, receive daily Communion and practice acts of service. I give thanks to the Holy Trinity for creating me to be a part of this religious family. I pray for all those who have a religious vocation...." *Sister Martha Patricia Malacara Martinez; Allied Discalced Carmelites; Columbia Magazine August 2017*

Nativity of St. John the Baptist: Afraid and amazed. The gospels from both the vigil and the day tell us not to fear. An unnamed angel stands near the father of John the Baptist saying, "Do not be afraid." At his somewhat surprising birth and naming, "all were amazed." Why? Because the hand of God is at work! · How will I lean into God's hand this week? · How will I trust in God's good mercy toward me? · Let me sing Psalm 139 (or "O God, You Search Me" by Bernadette Farrell) all week.

. Faith and Your Children - Scripture Storytelling

Making our Catholic faith real and exciting for children has rewards and challenges, frustrations and successes. It is often fun, always surprising, and never boring. We hope this series will help you accompany your children on this fantastic journey.

After Mass on Sunday, three-year-old Mary was playing with her baby brother. "Mommy," Mary asked, "can I tell Joey a story?"

Mother smiled. "I think he'd like that, honey."

Mary proudly shared with her brother a toddler's version of the story of Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52): "Once upon a time there was a blond man. Jesus said, 'What do you want, blond man?' The blond man said, 'I can't see.' Jesus said, 'Yes, you can.' The blond man saw and he lived happily ever after."

Mary's interpretation wasn't perfect, but the point is clear -- children love stories! They love to tell them and they love to hear them. Young listeners are at once entertained, enlightened, and inspired; imaginations are awakened, and a bond forms between listener and storyteller. No wonder Jesus used stories so often!

Breaking Scripture down into simple stories can give children a personal image of Jesus. By selecting stories from the current liturgy, we can also encourage children to listen more attentively at Mass. We have to study the readings to find the "story element" that will fit into a child-sized package. It takes time, but when we see them listen for "their story" instead of yawning during the readings at Mass, our efforts pay off.

For example, in John's Gospel (see John 20:19-31), Jesus appears through locked doors to comfort the fear-filled disciples -- a great story passage! Children understand fear and they love surprises. Begin by explaining why the disciples are afraid. Build slowly toward the surprise visit from Jesus. Even locked doors can't keep him out! Watch them react to this happy news. Finally, add the assurance of Jesus' words: "Peace be with you!"

As we work to perfect our Scripture storytelling, we just might find our own understanding growing alongside our child's. -- Francine O'Connor

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

This reading is about the servant Israel who was chosen to be a beacon for all nations, and to see and be drawn back to God. Explain why it was chosen for today's celebration of the nativity of John the Baptist

What in this reading tells you John was a humble man? Did John direct people's attention to himself or to Jesus? What was John's whole life and ministry about? What is your ministry about?

We can learn three things from John the Baptist: How to prepare, how to discern, and how to decrease in order to let the Lord increase. When Jesus began to preach did John's following begin to decline? Why does Pope Francis say we need to diminish? According to him, is everything in our ministry up to us, or can we be assured that God will do God's part?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Thirteenth Sunday of the Year Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Ps 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7,9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43