



Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett
Phone (618) 658 – 4501
mail: spccil@frontier.com
Web: www.stpaulvienna.org



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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 Glory of Christ On the cross, Christ is humiliated, shamed, and suffering. To ordinary people passing by, he looks more like a loser than a winner in life. And yet we treasure the crucifix because it is the symbol of God’s love made manifest to us. God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son that we should not die but have everlasting life ([John 3:16](#)). Could anything be more glorious than this love? The glory of Christ is shown on the cross!

But in the Gospel reading for this Sunday, we see Christ glorious in a more obvious and ordinary way. Up on a mountain, Christ is transfigured. His clothes are radiant, and so is he. Moses and Elijah come to talk to him. And a voice from heaven proclaims that Jesus is God’s beloved Son, in whom God is well-pleased. In this transfiguration, Christ looks both lovely and powerful, a winner rather than a loser on anybody’s view. And Christ takes just Peter, James, and John up to the mountain to see his transfiguration.

If Christ had not been resurrected, we might have supposed that suffering is all there is to glory. Why would Christ allow himself to be transfigured in this way before his passion? And why would Christ want to show himself transfigured to his followers? Shouldn’t his suffering be for us the right way to understand true glory?

Maybe the reason for his transfiguration shares something with the reason for his resurrection. If Christ had not been resurrected, we might have supposed that suffering (or at least, suffering for the Lord) is all there is to glory. And then we might have gotten confused and thought that there is something specially good about suffering taken all by itself. Maybe Christ allows himself to be transfigured so that his followers will understand even before the grieving events of the crucifixion that suffering is not the end of the story, not for Christ and not for his followers either.

But then why do only Peter, James, and John witness Christ in glory in this way?

Well, these three apostles went on to suffer greatly for Christ. James and Peter were among the first martyrs, and John shepherded the church through severe persecutions. Christ helped them get ready for those trials by strengthening them with the vision of his transfiguration.

Consolation increases with affliction, the apostle Paul says ([2 Cor 1:5](#)). That is a consoling thought for us, isn’t it?

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 36 **Twenty-fourth Sunday of Year, September 16, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Sept 16	8:00 am	SFD	Mary Ann Connors
		10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman
Tue	Sept 18	9am, 11 am	DOC	Masses Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	Sept 19	6:30 pm	SP	Fr Federico Higuera
Thr	Sept 20	11:30, 1 pm	BOP	Masses at Marion
Fri	Sept 21	12:00 pm	SP	Leola Barrett
Sun	Sept 23	8:00 am	SFD	Mary Ann Connors
		10:00 am	SP	Loretta Petges

Sun, Sept 16, 10 am
Server: R Slife, B Bertram
Lector: Rhi Slife
Gifts: Children Liturgy
Usher:*L Hinton, D Zmuda Sr
 J Bergmann, S Widowski
E. Minister M Nelson
 P Widowski, Z Garrett
Greeter Bill & Billie Porter

Sun, Sept 23, 10 am
Server:L Slife, C Bergmann
Lector: Joe Nelson
Gifts: C Johnson, C Kruep
Ushers:* J Nelson, M Palmer
 P Widowski, F Dueker
E. Minister S Widowski
 D Bishop, B Bishop
Greeter Matt & Rhi Slife

Birthdays
 Sept 16 Carolyn Johnson
 Sept 17 Bill Johnson
 Sept 20 Alex Ross

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Sept 16 Retired Belleville Diocesan Priest Collection
 St Francis DeSales Mass 8:00am
 St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word..10:00 am
 Draw-Down Early Bird Drawing.....after mass
 Opening PSR Class.....11:00 am
 Altar Sodality- CCW Collection and Mt in hall.11am
 Mon Sept 17 Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist Hall..12-6:00pm
 Tues Sept 18 Masses at Shawnee and Vienna DOD..9am,11 am
 Wed Sept 19 Ministerial Alliance Mt.....12:00 pm
 Weekday Mass at SP.....6:30 pm
 SP Parish Council Meetinghall.....7:05 pm
 Thr Sept 20 Masses at Marion Penitentiary.....11:30 am, 1pm
 Fri Sept 21 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
 Sun Sept 23 St Francis DeSales Mass 8:00am
 St Paul Mass10:00 am
 PSR Class.....11:00 am
 Joint 125th Anniversary & Parish Histories Mt..11am



RETIRED DIOCESAN PRIEST COLLECTION will be taken up next Sunday, Sept 16th.

Collection income provides supplemental health insurance, special medical expenses, and nursing home care for retired Belleville diocesan priests.

CATECHISTS for the PSR program will participate in a Commissioning ceremony at today's mass. We welcome and offer support catechists, Amanda Zmuda, Pre-School; Beth Palmer, 2nd Gr; Arlene Dueker, 3-5th Gr; Marsha Nelson, 8-9th Gr; and substitutes Steve Widowski, Rhi Slife, and Madonna Slife. PSR classes begin today, September 16, 11 am in the education wing of the Parish Center.

PARISH ADDRESS BOOK, EMERGENCY CONTACT UPDATE All parishioners are asked to take a moment to review your listing in the Address booklet in the church entrance. Put checkmark if all is still correct, or update any incorrect information. If you're new to the parish, please add your name and information to be included.

DRAW-DOWN PARTY October 20th Tickets are available for \$100.00 that may be shared by up to ten people. Early Bird Drawing for \$100 will be Sept 16th.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN will take up offering for ministries following today's mass and invite all women of the parish to take part in the meeting in the hall following this Sunday's mass.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS are reminded to pick up agenda and take part in meeting on Wed, Sept 19th. 7:05 pm.

SAVE THE DATE Sept 23, 11am for an organizational meeting that will coordinate a history book on the occasion of St Paul 125th anniversary and merging of St Francis DeSales with St Paul, along with commemorative events during 2020.

THANK YOU...

- ...To Jared Bergmann and Matt Slife for grilling the meat for the Joint Parish Picnic
- ... to Cathy Kruep, Arlene Dueker and Marsha Nelson for prizes, games and activities with youth and adults
- ...to Madonna Slife for purchasing pork steaks, chicken, hot dogs and supplies.
- ...to Craig Levesque for power washing the pavilion and picnic tables.
- ...to all who donated cakes for the cake walk and covered dishes for the potluck.
- ...to all who stayed around to clean up, rearrange and put away.

CD Kios Contagious Catholicism: The 7 Habits of Modern-Day Apostles - **CHRIS STEFANICK** - Internationally acclaimed speaker and author speaks about the importance of living a life of authenticity with a courageous commitment to love. He walks us through seven habits that we can use as modern-day apostles to effectively spread the good news to Jesus Christ. Following these lessons will help us to fulfill our calling to be fearlessly, joyfully Catholic, with a faith that is attractive, life-giving, and truly contagious.

RESPECT LIFE This year, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday on Sept 16. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. **Learn, Act, Connect, Pray:** Don't be afraid to ask "Catholic questions" and don't shy away from those that do. Answer the questions of the "nones" so that they too may come to understand Christ's love; for those who don't know are often the most curious and willing to learn. Pray that we all may find the courage to be a witness to Christ.

Biblical Inspirations The Bible, Tradition, and Revelation

The Catholic Church, by accepting certain books as inspired by God and rejecting others, was saying -- under the guidance of the Holy Spirit -- "This is what we believe about God, about Jesus, about life and death, and about who we are as a Church. On the other hand, these are the things we reject." Hence, the books of the Bible have played a pivotal role in shaping the beliefs of each new generation of Christians.

All of this was a dynamic process, sure to involve conflict. In the four centuries after Christ, there were those who wanted to limit the saving action of Jesus by claiming that Christians should follow the law of Moses. Some held that Jesus was God but not man; others thought just the reverse. People argued over the revelation of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The early Church expressed its belief about these and other matters in the biblical books it accepted as inspired, in the decisions of Church councils, in formulas of belief called creeds, and in its worship. As this happened, believers became the kind of Church we recognize as "Christian" and as "Catholic."

The process by which the Bible was formed helps us to understand what the Catholic Church means by sacred tradition. Tradition means "handing on." Sacred tradition includes the way in which the Church has interpreted and handed on the Bible. Tradition also embraces the decisions of councils, creeds, worship, and the consistent teaching of the Church down through the centuries. None of these contradicts the Bible; they are based on the Bible and help us discover its richness.

The Bible and sacred tradition comprise what the Church understands as divine revelation. Catholics do not regard belief as limited to the Bible alone; early in the life of the Church there was no New Testament! Further, tradition is necessary if the Church is to apply the teaching of the Scriptures to changing circumstances. We believe that the Church does this under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (John 16:12-13).

Father Oscar Lukefahr, C.M.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What things have power over you in your life? Would you like to see them lose some of their hold? What are some of the "dark places" that could use "a lamp shining ... until day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart"? (Examples: immigration, water supply, environmental safety, political fairness, threats of nuclear weapons, homelessness, health care ...).

In the Transfiguration the disciples were invited to behold Jesus in his glory—to stop talking and listen to him. Do you ever ask yourself when you saw or heard Jesus during the day?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm, 54; James 3:16- 4:3; Mark 9:30-37