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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

Being Able To Hear In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Jesus does a miracle: a man who was deaf and impaired in speech becomes able to hear and to speak plainly.

But the way in which Jesus performs the miracle seems undignified or even silly. Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ears and his spit on the man's tongue. *Before* the man's ears are opened to hear, Jesus looks up to heaven, he groans, and he says "Be opened!"

What happened to the elegant kind of miracle where Jesus just says a word and a person is healed? Why this show, which looks embarrassing for Jesus?

Jesus is inviting the deaf man to trust in Jesus, to choose to accept the miracle—to choose to hear the word that Jesus speaks to him. The answer lies in the question. What Jesus does is literally a silent show. It has to be. Jesus is trying to communicate with someone who can't hear. In other cases, before Jesus does a miracle, Jesus talks to the person for whom the miracle will be done. In this case, he does charades.

His charade begins by letting the deaf man know that Jesus is putting a part of himself into the deaf man—his fingers into the deaf man's ears, his spit into the deaf man's mouth. By this means, Jesus invites the deaf man to accept Jesus into himself—literally. And then Jesus looks up to heaven to show the deaf man the source of Jesus' power. It doesn't come from some magic in Jesus' fingers or spittle. It comes from God, whose power is in Jesus, who is in the deaf man, by means of this charade.

Even the groaning and the speech of Jesus to the deaf man make sense if we think of them in this way. First, the deaf man sees Jesus open his mouth to make the inarticulate sound of groaning. This deaf man doesn't speak, but even those made mute by deafness can groan. In groaning, Jesus joins the deaf man, who can see Jesus groaning even if he can't hear him.

And then the deaf man sees Jesus speaking an articulate word *to him*, to the man who cannot hear. In doing this, Jesus is inviting the deaf man to trust in Jesus, to choose to accept the miracle—to choose to *hear* the word that Jesus speaks to him.

And so Jesus humbles himself to share the limitations of this one deaf man. By undignified dumb show, the love of the Lord heals the deaf man's soul as well as his ears. Let us be humble enough to hear the love of the Lord in this story.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 35 **Twenty-third Sunday of Year, September 9, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Sept 9	8:00 am	SFD	Mary Ann Connor
		10:00 am	SP	Mary Ann Mudd
Tue	Sept 11	9am, 11 am	No Mass	
Wed	Sept 12	6:30 pm	No Mass	
Fri	Sept 14	12:00 pm	SP	Leola Barrett
Sun	Sept 16	8:00 am	SFD	Mary Ann Connor
		10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman

Birthdays

Sept 9 Steve Hupe
 Sept 14 Kaden Shaw
 Sept 16 Carolyn Johnson

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Sept 9, 10 am Server:L Slife, M Bergmann Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: P Kalicki, P Kinkead Ushers:* J Slife, Mt Slife R Beanland, G Tesina E. Minister Md Slife L Stoerger, C Kruep Greeter: Dolly Hopkins</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Sept 9 St Francis DeSales Mass 8:00am
 Blood Pressure Cks- before and after mass SP
 St Paul Mass10:00 am
 Our Parish Family Presentation – end of mass
 Joint Parish Picnic at SP.....11:30 am
 Catechist Organization Mt.....abt 1:30 pm
- Mon Sept 10 Fr Tom at Clergy Convocation - Mon thru Thurs
- Thr Sept 13 Wellness Committee Mt.....6:00 pm
- Fri Sept 14 Weekday Mass.....12 pm
- Sat Sept 15 Internment- Mary Ann Connor at SF Cemetery.2 pm
- 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



JOINT PARISH PICNIC hosted at St Paul will be held Sunday, September 9th, 11:30 am. Games and activities for youth and adults will be held following the meal. All are encouraged to participate.

CATECHISTS for the PSR program will have organizational meeting Sunday, Sept 9 following the picnic. PSR classes will begin on 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.

GRANDPARENTS DAY We recognize the gifts of grandparents to their own and other grandchildren by the care and time you devote to them

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. Tickets available from Dolly Hopkins, Madonna Slife, Matt Slife, Marsha Nelson or after mass. Consolation prizes are needed. Parishioners are encouraged to solicit Gift cards and certificates for services of various businesses. Ideas and donations for Theme baskets are welcome.

CLERGY CONVOCATION Fr Tom will participate with other clergy of diocese in Convocation themed, "Serving as Missionary Disciples: The joys and Anxieties of our Priesthood Today" Monday through Thursday. In emergency, he may be contacted at 618-759-1707..

HOSPICE OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS is offering a Training Class Sept 14 at Marion office to familiarize volunteers with policies and procedures. For more information call 618-997-3030 or e-mail rspiller@hospice.org.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEO GARET WIDOWSKI, son of Paul and Amanda Widowski, baptized into God's family on Sept 8th.

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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER...Fr Federico Higuera, pastor of St Mary, Anna, who died on Tuesday, Sept 4.

DEAF AND DUMB. Jesus enters foreign and hostile lands today and opens the deaf man's ears and unties his tongue. Are we not at times deaf to the cries of poverty and injustice? Are we not at times tongue tied to unkind, untruthful words and illegalities? Disciples of Christ – that is who we are because of Baptism – must listen for and then speak truth. · How will my goodness, because of God's grace, let me go where the needy are? · To whom and to what must I open my ears and listen intently? · How can I speak truth to lies and injustice?

Biblical Inspirations - The Origin of the Bible

Throughout Israelite history, there were writers inspired to record their experiences of God. Believers wrote in poetry and preaching, in laws and legends, in proverbs and prophecy, and in stories and history. Spiritual leaders recognized these grace-filled texts as revelations from God. Cherished as God's own Word, the verses were studied by the wise and explained in places of worship.

By the time of Christ, many different opinions had surfaced among the Jews as to which books should be accepted as divinely inspired. Definitive "canons," or lists, probably didn't exist until well after Jesus' life on earth. There were, however, two established collections: the Palestinian, written in Hebrew, and the Alexandrian, written in Greek. The former contained thirty nine books and the latter forty six.

The Alexandrian canon gradually prevailed among Christians and was accepted by such Church councils as Hippo in 393 and Carthage in 397. Dissension returned in the sixteenth century when Protestant leaders rejected the Alexandrian canon in favor of the Palestinian. The Council of Trent countered in 1546 by defining the Alexandrian list as the official canon of the Hebrew Scriptures for Catholics. As a result the Catholic Hebrew Scriptures canon contains seven more books than the Protestant: Tobit, Judith, First and Second Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch (as well as additions to Esther and Daniel).

After Jesus' Resurrection, the good news of salvation was spread primarily by missionary preaching. Before long, Christians began to feel a need to preserve their heritage in writing. Collections of the sayings of Jesus, liturgical prayers, and professions of faith began to appear. In A.D. 51 or 52, Paul started to write letters to the various cities he had evangelized. By 65 or 70, the Gospel of Mark was written; other gospels followed.

All twenty-seven books of the New Testament were written by the year 125 and recognized as inspired by the year 200. The complete canon, listed by the Councils of Hippo and Carthage, again was challenged by the Reformation. Martin Luther dropped Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelation. Today the same twenty-seven books of the New Testament are accepted by Protestants and Catholics alike.

-- Father Oscar Lukefahr, C.M.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Isaiah writes about the hope of deliverance from exile. Do you need to be liberated from suffering sometimes? Does this message of hope speak to you?

Do you show partiality? Do you give the same respect to people who have money and prestige as to those who don't? "Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith?"

In the Gospel the people relate Jesus' curing the deaf man to the prophet's promise in the [First Reading](#) ("Then will ... the ears of the deaf be cleared; ... the tongue of the mute will sing ... ")

What does this Gospel miracle say to you about the beginning of the reign of God? What does it say to you about your Christian job of hearing the cries of the poor and speaking out for justice?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year Isaiah 50: 5-9a; Psalm, 116; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35