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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 Good News** The readings for this Sunday are about rejoicing. The First Reading tells God's people to shout for joy, and the Second Reading exhorts Christians to rejoice always. The Gospel Reading says that John the Baptist preached good news to the people.

So what did John the Baptist say? What is there to rejoice about?

It helps in thinking about this question to have some sense of what the bad news is.

You will be so lovely that God himself will make songs about you and for you, and he himself will sing them to you.

The Second Reading follows the call to rejoice with an exhortation to have no anxieties. The bad news is everything that raises those anxieties. The First Reading spells out some of it. There are enemies; there are misfortunes—sickness, poverty, unemployment, natural disaster, and all the rest.

It is possible to find some peace about all these things by bringing them to God in prayer and putting your trust in him. At any rate, that is the antidote to these anxieties recommended by the Second Reading.

But a person can have anxieties that are harder to bring to God. There are the relationships you have broken, the wreckage you have made of things at home, the failures you are culpable for at work. Sin can paralyze any effort at joy in loving relationship with God and others. You can put your trust in God; but what happens when you know that God can put no trust in you? What happens to joy in the face of this thought?

That is the bad news.

But this is also where the good news comes in. The First Reading promises that God will rejoice over you. And why? The answer is also in the First Reading: God will renew you; and when he does, you will be so lovely that God himself will make songs about you and for you, and he himself will sing them to you.

That is amazing good news, isn't it? But how can it be?

This is where the good news of John the Baptist comes in. Christ will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit will then dwell in you. Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, and he brings God the Holy Spirit into us. When God is with you and in you, how can you keep from singing for joy?

Eleonore Stump

**Vol 19 # 48 Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018**

**CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST**

Sun	Dec 16	8:00 pm	SFD	Daniel Drone
		10:00 am	SP	Tim Reeder
Tue	Dec 18	9am, 11am	DOC Mass	Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	Dec 19	11:30am, 1 pm	Marion Penitentiary	
		6:30 pm	SP	Philip & Leola Barrett
Fri	Dec 21	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Louis Koehr
Sun	Dec 23	8:00 pm	SFD	Daniel Drone
		10:00 am	SP	Agnes Schwartz

<b>Birthdays</b>
Dec 18 Kaylee Hooven
Dec 19 Elizabeth Zmuda
Dec 23 Gary Hacker

**St Paul, Vienna**

<p><b>Sun, Dec 16, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b>L Slife, C Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Widowski  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Ushers*</b>M Slife, S Pobst                  P Widowski, J Bergmann  <b>E. Minister</b> B Palmer                  Z Garrett, D Bishop  <b>Greet</b> Monica, Chuck Querrey</p>	<p><b>Sun, Dec 23, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> M Bergmann, R Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Madonna Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Bill, Billie Porter  <b>Usher:</b>*L Hinton,F Dueker                  S Widowski, M Palmer  <b>E. Minister</b> D Hopkins                  V Anderson, P Kalicki  <b>Greeter</b> Geri Tesina</p>	<p><b>Sun, Dec 30, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b>Mady,Curtner Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Rhi Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Chuck, Monica Querrey  <b>Ushers*</b>M McMahan, D Zmuda                  R Stoerger, R Beanland  <b>E. Minister</b> B Bishop                  S Belske, L Stoerger  <b>Greeter</b> Joan Galey</p>
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**St Francis DeSales, Stonefort**

<p><b>Sun, Dec 16: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Lector:</b> Myron Cole  <b>Gifts:</b> R Drone, D Parks  <b>Usher:</b> Stan Treat  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>	<p><b>Sun, Dec 23: 8:00 pm</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Lector:</b> LaVonne Herber  <b>Gifts:</b> M Moore/ C Parks  <b>Usher</b> Myron Cole  <b>E. Min:</b> Mary Treat</p>
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**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

- Sun Dec 16 St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 pm
- St Paul Mass & Blood Pressure cks.....10:00 am
- Christmas Pageant and Potluck meal at SP..11:00 am
- Christmas Church decorating.....after potluck
- Tues Dec18 Mass at Shawnee & Vienna..DOC.....9am, 11 am
- Wed Dec19 Masses at Marion Penitentiary.....11:30 am, 1 pm
- Weekday Mass at SP.....6:30 pm
- SP Parish Council Mt...hall.....7:05 pm
- Dec 20 Toy Distribution Ministry Service .....lv 8:00 am
- Fri Dec 21 Weekday mass at SP.....12:00 pm
- Memorial Flower deadline for Christmas insert
- Sat Dec 22 Sacrament of Reconciliation at SP.....4-5:00 pm
- Sun Dec 23 Sacrament of Reconciliation at SFD.....7:15-7:45am
- St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 pm
- St Paul Mass .....10:00 am



**CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD** for youth age 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade offered at the Sunday mass this weekend beginning after the opening prayer.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** available before and after mass today by member of the Wellness Committee.

**2019 CATHOLIC CALENDARS AND CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** are available in church entrance. Please share our appreciation to Bailey Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND POTLUCK** will be held in the parish hall following the mass this weekend. Celebrate the meaning of the season with young members and be a gift to each other as we share in the potluck meal and Christmas activities.

**DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS** Please consider lending a hand to set up the Christmas tree and do preliminary decorations in church following the Christmas Potluck.

**SP PARISH COUNCIL** will have December meeting on Wed, Dec 19, 7:05 pm in the parish hall. Members are asked to pick up agenda at weekend mass.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS** must be in to the parish office by 9am Friday, Dec 21 to be included in the Christmas Insert.

**PARISH RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES** Time for individual Sacrament of Reconciliation is scheduled on Saturday, 4-5 pm at St Paul Church, and on next Sunday, 7:15-7:45 am at St Francis DeSales.

**THANK YOU....** to all who participated in the Angel Tree Gift program and organizers who collected, sorted and distributed them to youth.

**SCRIPTURE INSIGHT** God comes. What shall we do? God, indeed, is coming. Near at hand. At the door. Be busy! Be lovingly-kind, like God. Do mercy work. Being merciful does not require extraordinary behavior. It simply means, be human. That is, be holy. Prove that God is here by wrestling with conversion to Christ in ongoing ways – be genuine, be just, be fair. The gospel offers some suggestions: clean out the closet, share from the pantry, do not take what others need. Do mercy. Be mercy. Read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate of 2018 on the call to holiness in today's world. Here is a Link:[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20180319\\_gaudete-et-exsultate.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html) How will I be holy, be the "saint next door"? What mercy work will I do to share with those in need?

**PARISH HISTORY.** Consider helping with an updating and expanding the history of the parish. and other preparations for the anniversary. Parishioners with any old photographs or accounts are asked to share them with Lonnie Hinton or the parish office. Photos will be scanned and promptly returned to owners.

**UPCOMING...** Christmas mass schedule this year will be Christmas Eve 6:00 pm (choral music program begins 5:30 pm) at St Paul, and Christmas Day 8:00 am at St Francis DeSales, and 10:00 am at St Paul.

## Liturgy The Eucharistic Prayer

Sammy, six years old, heard that his newborn sister was a gift from God. Seeing her for the first time, he peered into the crib and asked, "Before you forget, what does God look like?"

The gurgle, that was baby sister's answer is about as close as any human being has come to describing the appearance of God. Only Jesus has authentically described for us the likeness of God. In order to do that, Jesus had to change his own appearance: "[he] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness" (Philippians 2:7).

In the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, the priest prays on behalf of the Church that the bread and wine may be transformed into the body and blood of Jesus. He also prays that all of us, who are flesh and blood, will be changed: "Grant that we ... may be filled with the Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ."

Even though these changes would literally cost us our earthly life, they would also bring us face to face with God. This is nothing to fear; we profess that vision as our goal!

Stability, everything predictable and no surprises on the horizon, always seems preferable to change. The truth is, however, that true faith guarantees surprises. The presence of God is always disturbing. Christ himself said, "Unless you change ... you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Change in the life of a disciple is the work of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit overshadowed Mary at the announcement of Christ's birth; the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness; the Spirit came upon the apostles in wind and fire. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we ask the Spirit to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus; he will make us also the Body of Christ.

An ancient Chinese curse says, "May you live in a time of change." The world around us, the Church among us, the Spirit within us all indicate that we do indeed live in an era of change. Our faith makes that change not a curse but a blessing.

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### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

This reading says it twice: "Be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst." Have you ever remembered the presence of God in the middle of a crisis? What effect did it have on you?

Maybe you rejoice when you are singing at Mass on Sunday. Are there other times during the week that you experience the same kind of joy? What makes you happy in the Lord?

What kind of people went to hear John and then repented? Would you show up to hear someone like John today? What do you want to see and hear? Can people be prophets even though their actions or looks are a departure from the norm? Do you know any prophets?

Discuss

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Fourth Sunday of Advent** Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45