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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

Mary, the Mother of God In his moving musical composition Like Winter Waiting, John Foley, SJ, has Joseph sing about Mary, “Who is this woman?” For many people (and, of course, maybe for Joseph too) the question is really, “Who is this woman to me?” These two questions are very different in character.

Consider the first one. The traditional answer to it is that Mary is the Mother of God.

You might think, how much care and commitment should I have for Mary?

This answer can be hard to understand. All Christians agree that God is without beginning. It seems that a God without beginning can't be born. And so it seems that God can't have a mother either.

But Jesus is fully human and fully divine. As man, God can be born. And so, after all, God can have and did have a human mother.

The woman who was that mother is Mary.

And that is why, if it is taken theologically, the answer to the question Joseph sings in John Foley's music, “Who is this woman?” is this: Mary is the Mother of God.

But the more pressing question remains: “Who is this woman to me?”

The answer to this question depends on the life and love of each person who answers it, doesn't it?

Think about it this way. For every person who reads this Saint Louis University Liturgy Website, John Foley is the Jesuit priest who is the editor of the website and the composer of powerful and influential liturgical music. But the answer to the question, “Who is John Foley to me?” depends on the person answering the question. To me, he is a dear friend. But that is because the history of my life includes care for him and commitment to him.

But, you might think, how much care and commitment should I have for Mary?

Isn't that a backwards way to think about relationship with any person, Mary included? What a person is to you depends on you, on your own care for her and commitment to her. We will discover our right relationship to Mary if we ask ourselves the question Elizabeth asked: “Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 49 **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018**

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Dec 23	8:00 am	SFD	Daniel Drone
		10:00 am	SP	Agnes Schwartz
Mon	Dec 24	6:00 pm	SP	For the parishioners
Tue	Dec 25	8:00 am	SFD	For the parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Philip & Leola Barrett
Wed	Dec 26	6:30 pm	SP	Deacon Rich Bagby
Fri	Dec 28	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Chris Reuter
Sun	Dec 30	8:00 am	SFD	Daniel Drone
		10:00 am	SP	Wendy Bowman

Birthdays
Dec 23 Gary Hacker Fred Deaton
Dec 24 Nick Black
Dec 27 Sarah Black
Dec 29 Cecilia Parks

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Dec 23, 10 am Server: M Bergmann, R Slife Lector: Madonna Slife Gifts: Bill, Billie Porter Usher:*L Hinton,F Dueker S Widowski, M Palmer E. Minister D Hopkins V Anderson, P Kalicki Greeter Geri Tesina</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 30, 10 am Server:Mady,Curtner Bergmann Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: Chuck, Monica Querrey Ushers*M McMahan, D Zmuda R Stoerger, R Beanland E. Minister B Bishop S Belske, L Stoerger Greeter Joan Galey</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 24, 6 pm Server:L Slife, R Slife Lector: Joe Nelson Gifts: Chris Ray, Ken Retz Ushers*J Slife, Mt Slife S Widowski, D Bishop E. Minister P Widowski M Nelson, Md Slife</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Dec 23: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: LaVonne Herber Gifts: M Moore/ C Parks Usher Myron Cole E. Min: Mary Treat</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 30: 8:00 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: M Moore/L Herbert Usher: David Parks E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 25, 10 am Server: M & C Bergmann Lector: Steve Pobst Gifts: Volunteers Ushers*F Dueker, L Hinton J Bergmann, R Stoerger E. Minister S Belske P Kalicki, A Dueker</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Dec 23 Sacrament of Reconciliation at SFD.....7:15-7:45am
- St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
- St Paul Mass10:00 am
- Mon Dec 24 Diocesan Christmas Collection for Needy
Caroling Program..5:30..Christmas Eve Mass...6 pm
- Tues Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass at St Francis.....8 am
- Christmas Day Mass at St Paul.....10 am
- Wed Dec26 January calendar info deadline
Weekday Mass at SP.....6:30 pm
- Fri Dec 28 Weekday mass at SP.....12:00 pm
- Sun Dec 30 Holy Family Sunday
- St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
- St Paul Mass10:00 am



SP PARISH COUNCIL minutes from Dec 19th mt are available on bulletin board shelf.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE There will be a Christmas Eve choral program beginning at 5:30 pm followed by mass at St Paul on Dec 24: Christmas Day mass at St Francis DeSales will be 8 am on Tuesday, and mass at St Paul will be at 10 am.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN NEEDY A special collection is annually taken up in parishes of the diocese on Christmas to provide resources to assist requests of needy households in the diocese. The distribution of the funds are managed through the Catholic Urban Program supervised by Joe Hubbard. Envelopes for the collection are in the boxed set.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOK Each household will be presented a copy of SIGNS OF LIFE:20 Catholic Customs and their Biblical Roots. If you will be out of town for Christmas, you're encourage to pick up your copy the following week.

LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER IN ABSENCE OF PRIEST Bishop Braxton has requested that at least three Lay Leaders of Prayer be prepared to provide Sunday services in anticipation of priest shortage. Only one person is currently trained for this role. The diocese will offer a training program Feb 1 & 2, 2019 in Herrin. Potential people are encouraged to register by Jan 18th. See Fr Tom for form.

THANK YOU.... to PSR and catechists, parishioners and all who participated in the Christmas Pageant and potluck, those who prepared, set up and served the food and the Council of Catholic Women for preparing treats for the children.

...to all who decorated the church for Christmas

...to Gabe Ross, Riley Slife, Joe and Marsha Nelson for service to Salvation Army toy distribution.

...to all who have made flower memorial donations..

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.

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UPCOMING... Mary, Mother of God Holyday Mass will be Dec 31, 7 pm at St Francis DeSales, and Jan 1, 6:30 pm at St Paul.

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT God came in human flesh. Mass today tells the story: no one is too small, too insignificant to bear the presence of God. The pre-born John [the one to be the Baptist] acts first in the story of visitation by jumping for joy in the womb. At what? The assurance that God comes and will be God-with-us. How will I let God come to me today? At what can I jump for joy? How will I do this mercy work.

Liturgy Healing of Memories

The Eucharistic Prayer transforms the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, an action through which we are all transformed. This great prayer, the center and summit of the entire Mass, also has to do with memories. The words recall God's past works, speak of God's current action for our good, and imagine a future beyond our wildest imagining.

The origins of the Eucharistic Prayer are found in ancient Jewish ritual. The berakah was a Jewish prayer form used both publicly and privately. Jesus used elements of the "berakah" when blessing the bread and wine at the Last Supper. The prayer praises God's infinite goodness, recalling the long history of God's steadfast fidelity to a covenant of love.

Recalling is essential to human experience. Sometimes the memories are painful, even haunting. All of us know remorse over past sins and failings. Imagine Peter remembering his denial of Christ as Jesus hung upon the cross. Peter could not turn back time; he joins us in living with painful memories. But Peter also joins us in a central truth of our faith; the Resurrection redeems our memories. Turning back the clock is not a concern; we move ahead with Jesus every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

In the words of the consecration, we do more than simply recall Jesus' actions at the Last Supper. We say, "Calling to mind the death your Son endured, his glorious Resurrection ... we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice" (Eucharistic Prayer 3). Jesus is not a memory at Mass; he is present as he has promised.

Jesus came to heal, to restore, to bring back to life. Were it not for the Eucharist, his life and teaching would be but a happy memory. The Eucharist means we need not regret living now rather than in Christ's time. We know him today just as intimately as if we were in that first chosen band of apostles.

If we truly comprehend the significance of this great prayer, then certainly we would shout out the Great Amen that closes the prayer. Saint Jerome, an early Christian writer, says that this Amen used to sound like thunder in the city of Rome, shaking all the pagan temples!

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

If you were expecting a majestic ruler how would you have felt about the stable and manger? When you experience poverty in your life, do you accept it as a meeting place with God or do you run from it?

What is the mission of the Messiah? Why is Christ's offering presented as effective whereas the "sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings" of the Old Covenant are made to seem less so?

The infant "leaped for joy" in Elizabeth's womb at the recognition of the soon to be born savior. Discuss this moment as mankind's welcome to the savior. How close do you come to leaping for joy when you recognize God's presence in your life?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Holy Family 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm 84; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52